FOREST.

(Nos. 184 to 209.)

SUBJECT NO. 184.

Forest denudation.

Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur taluk, and K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The opinion is held by some that the forests are now being overworked, the correctness of which, however, is denied by the Forest Department. A committee may therefore be appointed to consider the question of forest denudation.

Denudation of forests affects injuriously the rainfall and the supply of wood.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao.—It is not correct to take the whole area of the State Forest and compare the trees cut with respect to it. Some parts are over-worked. If the sole object is the increase of revenue by trying to find new markets for timber, a time will come when there may not be sufficient timber to provide for local needs. A rough estimate may be made as to the quantity required to supply the local demand and a small quantity may also be made available for export. This should be stocked in depot and sold through the department. Felling of trees should not be given out on contract.

Reply of Government.—Unless a *prima facie* case is made out that the forests are over-worked, a committee cannot be appointed. The enquiries made by Government give no room for any such apprehension. It is under consideration to invite the Inspector-General of Forests in India to suggest means for the improvement of Mysore forests.

SUBJECT NO. 185.

The rule *re grant* of lands containing sandal trees.

(*a*) Messrs. B Kesaviah and C. Vasudeva Rao, Chikmagalur taluk; Mir Mohamed Sab, Mahomed Imam Sab, and Subba Rao, Tarikere taluk.
(*b*) Messrs. B. Alasingrachar and Dodda Payanna, Hassan taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Applicants have to pay the price of sandal trees standing on the lands for which applications are made. In the malnad, this rule works as a great hardship on the raiyats and the Government loses its revenue. The rule may be done away with, at least, in the malnad districts. In the Kadur district, darkhasts in which the upset price demanded was Rs. 400 in all had to be rejected as the applicants could not pay the amount.

(*b*) Under standing orders, the *khatedar* is held responsible for damage done to sandal trees in his *khate* lands and is subject to penalty. Pray that the *khatedar* be relieved from such responsibility.

This was considered along with subjects Nos. 186 and 187.